

## *Michael Rao*

Dr. Michael Rao became the fifth president of Virginia Commonwealth University and president of the VCU Health System on July 1, 2009.

Dr. Rao comes to VCU with the experience of three successful presidencies at universities of increasing size and complexity. Most recently, he served as president and professor at Central Michigan University, a public doctoral research institution with 28,000 students and an operating budget of more than \$400 million.

Dr. Rao was one of the three longest-serving presidents among Michigan's 15 public universities. During his nine-year tenure at CMU, the university significantly increased faculty positions and research productivity, developed academic programs and improved performance. Under Dr. Rao's leadership, CMU gained approval to establish a medical school and M.D. degree program, partnering with large health care systems.

Dr. Rao previously served as chancellor of Montana State University-Northern in Havre, Mont., and as president of Mission College in Santa Clara, Calif. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Dr. Rao served in the private sector as a higher education academic program planner. He also served as assistant to the president at the University of Florida, a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU).

Dr. Rao earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of South Florida and a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Florida.

## ***Dr. Thomas Morris***

Prior to his appointment by Governor Timothy M. Kaine to serve as Secretary of Education, Dr. Morris served as the president of Emory & Henry College for 13½ years. A distinguished Constitutional scholar and political scientist, he was a distinguished faculty member at the University of Richmond for 21 years.

Dr. Morris is widely known as an expert on Virginia government and politics. He is the author or co-author of four books, including *Virginia Government and Politics: Readings and Comments, Fourth Revised Edition*, a 1998 work co-edited with Larry Sabato of the University of Virginia. He co-authored a chapter entitled "Republicans Surge in the Competitive Dominion" in a book published by LSU Press, *Southern Politics in the 1990s*. He also wrote a chapter on Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder for a nationally circulated book entitled *Governors and Hard Times*, published in 1992 by Congressional Quarterly Press, and in 1994 a chapter on Virginia and the Voting Rights Act in *Quiet Revolution in the South*, Princeton University Press. Dr. Morris has written an additional 17 major articles or book chapters.

Dr. Morris was well known as a political analyst for television, radio, and print media over a period of twenty-five years. He chaired the Commission on Virginia's State and Local Tax Structure for the 21st Century (1999-2000) and was a member of Governor Warner's Commission on Efficiency and Effectiveness (2002).

A native of Galax, Virginia, Dr. Morris earned a bachelor's degree in government at Virginia Military Institute, studied at Princeton University, then completed master's and doctoral degrees in government at the University of Virginia.

## *Dr. Mark Levine*

Dr. Mark Levine was appointed by the Virginia State Health Commissioner, Dr. Karen Remley, to the position of Deputy Commissioner for Emergency Preparedness and Response beginning February 10, 2009. Prior to this role, Dr. Levine directed the Henrico County Health Department from February 2005 to 2009 and was District Director for the Piedmont Health District based in Farmville, VA from 2002 to 2005.

Dr. Levine is a board-certified family physician who also completed a Masters of Public Health (MPH) from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He received his MD from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, NY and completed family practice residency training at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Dr. Levine started his career in private medical practice in Pennsylvania. He subsequently joined the staff of an academic medical center and became the director of a family practice residency training program in Erie, PA. Dr. Levine was also in charge of the health and medical component of “Town Pickett”, the evacuation center for Hurricane Katrina evacuees created in 2005 at Fort Pickett in Blackstone.

**AGENDA TOPIC: Pandemic H1N1: Where we are, where we are going and what does it mean for the campus community.**

## *Michael M. Cline*

Mr. Michael Cline joined the Virginia Department of Emergency Management in 1972 and was appointed State Coordinator of Emergency Management in June 1998.

Mr. Cline has worked as Public Assistance Office; Projects Officer; State Training Officer; Operations Officer; Operations Director; Assistant Coordinator for Operations and Deputy State Coordinator in the Virginia Department of Emergency Management since 1972.

Mr. Cline has been a member of the State Disaster Response Team on 37 Presidentially declared disasters. He has been a member of the Virginia Emergency Medical Services Board, Gubernatorial Hazardous Materials Task Force, Gubernatorial Emergency Medical Services Task Force, Virginia E-911 Board, Virginia Domestic Preparedness (Terrorism) Work Group, and Acting Director of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and Chairman of the Virginia Emergency Response Council.

Mr. Cline has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Richmond and is a graduate of the Virginia Executive Institute.

**AGENDA TOPIC: Collaborating on emergency preparedness initiatives with the higher education community.**

## *Sara Estes Cohen*

As part of the Booz Allen Hamilton's Assurance and Resilience Team, Sara Estes Cohen has developed mission assurance programs including Emergency Response, Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Business Continuity. She has 10 years of experience in communications with three specifically in managing the consequences of disasters in the federal, local, and private sectors.

Ms. Cohen has participated and led in COOP and related emergency preparedness and response planning for the City of Beverly Hills and the University of California, Los Angeles, and has developed community education, training and evaluation programs. She has also served as a subject-matter expert in Pandemic Influenza planning for the University of California Center for Public Health and Disasters. For her master's thesis, entitled, "Using Social Networking for University Emergency Communications," Ms. Cohen worked with Myspace.com/Fox Interactive and UCLA to develop a model for universities to engage in social media for emergency communications, and presented her findings at several university communications symposiums throughout the year.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, she managed the national and international crisis communications campaigns for the New Orleans-based Preservation Hall Jazz Band and Music Hall. She also worked in collaboration with the Tipitina's Foundation and Black Entertainment Television (BET) on both the Radio City Music Hall Katrina fundraiser and BET Katrina telethon, in September of 2005.

## ***Bill DelGrosso***

As part of the Booz Allen Hamilton's Assurance and Resilience Team, Bill DelGrosso has developed mission assurance programs including emergency response, Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Business Continuity plans for public and private sector organizations. He has over 18 years of experience managing the consequences of disasters on Federal and local levels. He has subject matter and program management responsibilities and leadership roles on numerous tasks. He has validated Intelligence Community, civilian department and agency, and Judicial branch continuity programs with test, training, exercise, and evaluation programs. He has been responsible for all aspects of contract management including managing financial data, reconciling funding, ensuring contractual requirements are met, status reporting, managing staff, and client relationship building.

At the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) he participated in Federal response to some of the Nation's most challenging disasters. As an Emergency Management Coordinator with the Miami-Dade County Office Of Emergency Management. As the EOC Operations Chief and Logistics Section manager, he has coordinated local, State and Federal responders including supply chain resilience, preparedness programs and community based training. He also planned and participated in State level natural disaster and Federally evaluated nuclear power plant exercises. He has authored legislation in support of emergency management, is adept at strategic communications and volunteers with 9.11.2001 survivors.

**AGENDA TOPIC: Social Media: How to leverage social media for university emergency communications.**

## *Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott*

Congressman Scott began serving his ninth term as a Member of Congress on January 6, 2009. Prior to serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Scott served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1978 to 1983 and in the Senate of Virginia from 1983 to 1993.

During his 15-year tenure in the Virginia General Assembly, Rep. Scott successfully sponsored laws that are critical to Virginians in healthcare, education, employment, economic development, crime prevention, social services and consumer protection. His legislative successes included laws that improved healthcare benefits for women, infants and children, increased the Virginia minimum wage and created the Governor's Employment and Training Council. He also sponsored the Neighborhood Assistance Act, which provides tax credits to businesses for donations made to approved social service and crime prevention programs.

In November 1992, Rep. Scott was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Through this election, Rep. Scott made history by becoming the first African American elected to Congress from Virginia since Reconstruction and only the second African American elected to Congress in Virginia's history. Having a maternal grandfather of Filipino ancestry also gives Rep. Scott the distinction of being the first American with Filipino heritage to serve as a voting member of Congress.

Rep. Scott currently serves on the Committee on the Judiciary, where he is the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security. Rep. Scott also serves on the **Committee on Education and Labor** and the **Committee on the Budget**.

In Congress, Rep. Scott is leading efforts to pass comprehensive juvenile justice reform and crime prevention legislation by sponsoring the Youth PROMISE Act, which provides resources to state and local governments to prevent juvenile crime. He is also leading efforts to enact legislation designed to reduce high school dropout rates and increase access to a college education for all students with the Every Student Counts Act. Rep. Scott is also a strong supporter of universal health care and has sponsored the All Healthy Children Act that would

ensure that the 9 million uninsured children in the United States have access to quality health care.

Rep. Scott is a graduate of Harvard University and Boston College Law School. He received an honorable discharge for his service in the Massachusetts National Guard and the United States Army Reserve.